

Secret Societies.

A SELECT company, banding together, assuming an unknown obligation, and meeting within guarded doors, gives just grounds for grave suspicion. If secret societies were unknown and would thus suddenly organize they would meet with prompt censure. No need of secret meetings to do good, Meetings for good are held with open doors with motto above, "All are welcome." Christ says, "In secret have I said nothing." "If they shall say, behold, he is in the secret chamber, believe it not." Paul bids, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, for it is a shame to speak of those things done of them in secret." Hence neither Christ nor Paul attended the lodge. They claim to be charitable institutions. True, for money paid, the lodge agrees to care for you when sick; and if need be pay your funeral expenses. But that is not charity which has been paid for. And is it not folly to pay in advance for uncertain benefits? Their regalia is vain and useless. Much of their burying service is unscriptural, and nonsensical. Secret societies are hindering justice in our courts. Who would feel safe going to trial with secrecy arraigned against him. There is not a crown in Europe but is trembling in fear of secret orders. The Law defines who shall administer oaths and what they shall be administered for, and the punishment. Hence, in a matter of oaths and perjury, secret societies are usurpers. For an example of secret-order-oath see the case of the forty men who banded together to kill Paul. Acts 23: 12.

A twenty-page tract explaining the above principles more fully can be had by addressing the General Missionary and Tract Committee, Elgin, Ill. This leaflet, 13 cents per hundred.

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